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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN' FUND ON THE WORK OF ITS ANNUAL SESSION OF 1995

(22-26 May 1995)*

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* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its annual session (22-26 May 1995). The reports of the first regular session (1-3 and 6 February 1995), second regular session (20-23 March 1995) and third regular session (18-22 September 1995) will be issued as parts I, II and IV, respectively. The reports will be combined and issued in final form as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 13 (E/1995/33/Rev.1-E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1).

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. The President welcomed the new Executive Director, Ms. Carol Bellamy, and congratulated her on her appointment by the Secretary-General. He also welcomed the members of the wider UNICEF family who were taking part in the annual session, including high-level government representatives and representatives of the National Committees for UNICEF and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He said that UNICEF was at the beginning of a new era, marked by the appointment of the organizations's fourth Executive Director, its fiftieth anniversary in 1996 and the time-frame for achieving the mid-decade goals in 1995. In addition, through the major international conferences held in recent years, the international community had addressed issues that were vital to the well-being of children and women. It was the responsibility of the Executive Board to ensure that, as appropriate, the plans of action adopted at those conferences were translated into action for children. (See E/ICEF/1995/CRP.26 for the full text of his remarks.)

2. The Executive Director said that she welcomed the Executive Board's leadership and support, adding that the Board could count on her full cooperation. UNICEF, she said, must work to keep its momentum going through programmes and through management efforts. UNICEF must also help countries to achieve as many goals for children as possible, while remembering that reaching targets must be at the service of long-term, sustainable human development. In addition, strengthening accountability was key in all areas of the organization's work. First and foremost, the secretariat must be accountable to the Board, as well as to donors, programme counterparts, national partners, volunteers, staff and finally, to the world's children. While efficiency was crucial, problems of staff morale must be addressed and human resources development would be one of her priorities. (See E/ICEF/1995/CRP.27 for the full text of her remarks.)

B. Adoption of the agenda

3. The agenda of the session, as contained in document E/ICEF/1995/13/Rev.1, contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session: statements of the President of the Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part I and Part II)

Item 4: Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

Item 5: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council (Report of the Executive Director (Part III)):

(a) Follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199

(b) Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

(c) Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Item 6: UNICEF strategies in basic education

Item 7: Administrative and programme support baseline budget*

Item 8: Global funds programme baseline budget recommendation*

Item 9: Greeting Card and related Operations (GCO):

(a) GCO work plan and proposed budget

(b) Review of GCO budget cycle

(c) GCO provisional report for the 1994 season

(d) GCO financial report and accounts for the 1993 season

Item 10: Health strategy for UNICEF*

Item 11: Ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa

Item 12: Management review: issues concerning the UNICEF mission

Item 13: Proposals for UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews

Item 14: UNICEF strategies in water and environmental sanitation

Item 15: Adoption of decisions

Item 16: Other business

Item 17: Concluding remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Board

4. The Secretary of the Executive Board said that at the pre-session information meeting held on 11 May, it had decided to defer consideration of the agenda items on the health strategy and the two baseline budgets until the third regular session in September. On 19 May, the Bureau had endorsed this proposal. The agenda was adopted with those amendments. A revised timetable also was adopted.

5. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced the observer delegations that had submitted credentials for the session and had advised the secretariat of the agenda items in which they had a special interest. Other delegations added their items of interest orally. They were (with the agenda items indicated, if any, shown in parentheses): Albania; Algeria (3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14); Afghanistan (all); Argentina; Armenia (3, 8, 12, 13); Austria (3); Bangladesh (5 (b), 6, 12, 14); Belgium (all); Benin (all); Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Colombia; Côte d'Ivoire (6, 11, 12, 14); Cuba (all); Czech Republic; Denmark; Egypt; Eritrea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Fiji; Georgia; Holy See (all); Hungary; Ireland (all); Israel (13); Kazakstan (13); Kyrgyzstan; Latvia

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* See paragraph 4.

(all); Lesotho; Lithuania (6, 12, 14); Maldives; Mexico; Moldova (13); Namibia; Nepal; Nicaragua; Niger (5 (c), 12); Nigeria; Oman; Panama; Poland; Portugal; Rwanda (4); Slovenia (4, 5, 9); South Africa; Spain (3, 4); Sri Lanka; Switzerland (3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 14); Tajikistan; Thailand; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey (4, 7, 8, 12, 13); Turkmenistan (13); Ukraine; United Republic of Tanzania; Uzbekistan; Viet Nam (3, 4, 5, 12, 16); Yemen; and Zambia.

6. In addition, Palestine (13) and the League of Arab States had submitted credentials, as had the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (all); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (6); the World Health Organization (WHO); the Standing Group of the National Committees for UNICEF (all); the NGO Committee on UNICEF (6, 12); l'Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation) (1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 13); Bahá'í International (1, 4, 6, 11); Franciscans International; International Chamber of Commerce; International Committee of the Red Cross (1, 3, 4, 5 (c), 11, 12, 13); International Council on Social Welfare (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17); International Council of Women; International Federation of University Women (6, 12); International Federation of Social Workers; Rissho Kosei-kai; Rotary International; and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (5, 6).

II. DELIBERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Report of the Executive Director

7. Delegations commented on a number of issues raised in the report of the Executive Director (E/ICEF/1995/14 (Parts I and II)). Speakers suggested that the report be shortened and consolidated into a more operational and "reader-friendly" format. One delegation suggested that an analysis of the application of main strategic interventions in UNICEF programmes of cooperation be included in the report in future.

8. A number of delegations addressed the issue of global goals. It was said that while goal setting is an important element of planning, it must be done within the context of strengthening systems and institutions. Because vertical approaches sometimes resulted in increased coverage without necessarily achieving the objectives of sustainable development, UNICEF should pursue a framework for integrated planning rather than project-based planning. It also was suggested that UNICEF introduce new approaches to participatory development.

9. With regard to the appropriate mix of programme strategies for UNICEF country programmes, most speakers agreed that programme strategies should be country-specific, that capacity-building at different levels and the empowerment of communities and beneficiaries lead to sustainability, and that the UNICEF role in the expansion of services is mostly catalytic. The scope of UNICEF concern should be broader with regard to advocacy and policy dialogue on children's issues as opposed to financial and technical assistance for specific programme activities. The new format for presenting country programme recommendations (CPRs) to the Executive Board would reflect this approach.

10. One delegation stated that the Executive Board should attach the highest priority to the task of discussing individual CPRs and understanding precisely what needs to be done at the country level. In that context, the speaker emphasized the importance of country strategy notes (CSNs) and the need to provide developing countries with incentives to formulate them.

11. Many speakers addressed the continuing decline in donor contributions to general resources and supplementary funds. Some expressed support for the 20/20 initiative, while others said that much work still needs to be done by UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in terms of advocacy and formulating practical methods for implementing the Initiative.

12. One delegation noted that donor countries are shifting a growing part of their contributions to supplementary funds, such as emergency assistance, which they can earmark for specific projects. It expressed the view that the Executive Board's discussions on global strategy and CPRs would not have much impact on development activities if only a decreasing share of contributions was available for their implementation. The speaker strongly appealed to all donor countries to allocate more of their financial support to general resources.

13. Delegations expressed support for UNICEF advocacy efforts for the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its use as a guide for UNICEF programme development. Speakers noted the work under way to revise programme guidelines so as to incorporate provisions of the Convention in programme development and monitoring.

14. One delegation proposed that UNICEF, the Centre for Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child study ways of improving their coordination of activities relating to implementation of the Convention, and requested the secretariat to submit a report on this study to the Executive Board.

15. Several delegations highlighted problems related to children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC), including children with disabilities, and the importance of additional efforts to address all forms of exploitation of children and interventions for children affected by armed conflict. Some delegations called for more work by UNICEF in the area of CEDC and commended plans to revise the existing policy using the protection provisions in the Convention of the Rights of the Child as the framework.

16. Many delegates put particular emphasis on the promotion of child rights, calling for efforts to combat child labour and child prostitution, especially sexual tourism. It was suggested that UNICEF place more emphasis on those issues within the larger area of youth health. Several delegations stressed the importance of strengthening approaches in the area of life skills in order to increase the opportunities for young people to change behaviours which could place their health status at risk.

17. Several delegations commented on the increased vulnerability of children due to civil strife, war and violence and on the need for an adequate response by UNICEF. At the same time, many expressed concern about diverting the limited resources and efforts of UNICEF from the main task of supporting social development and essential social services, which also help prevent emergencies that arise from social tension. Speakers mentioned in particular the tragedy of displaced women and children in Rwanda and, to a lesser degree, in Burundi. The need for maintaining a balance between emergency operations and longer-term development programmes was emphasized by many delegations, while others stressed the need for closer collaboration within the United Nations system under the auspices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), and with NGOs. Speakers said that UNICEF needed to develop flexible systems for working with NGOs and grass-roots activists.

18. Many delegations stressed the importance of cooperation, coordination and avoidance of duplication of efforts by United Nations agencies, specifically within the context of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162. Speakers said that as a result of the recent series of international conferences, UNICEF would have an increasing role on the global agenda, which also underscored the need for collaborative strategies in the United Nations system.

19. Delegations highlighted the connection between national capacity-building and programme sustainability, adding that approaches to sustainable development must be considered with specific reference to poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation and armed conflict. Speakers said that because of the vulnerability of children and women in such circumstances, programmes for women were of special importance.

20. Several delegations underlined the importance of strengthening systems and their sustainability in relation to health goals, underscoring the need for a shift in programmes from projects to systems support. Some delegations commended the progress made by African countries in implementing the Bamako Initiative and expressed satisfaction with the growing cooperation between UNICEF and the World Bank in support of strengthening national health systems in Africa.

21. In response to a query regarding reduced UNICEF expenditures for immunization programmes since 1990, the secretariat replied that there had been some reductions in this area because Governments had taken more responsibility for meeting their own vaccine needs. With regard to Africa, funding had declined less than in other regions, but the decrease in coverage in the region had no direct correlation with the funding situation. The countries with the most serious declines had experienced serious civil disturbances or had weak and ineffective health infrastructures.

22. Several delegations asked UNICEF to highlight in its health activities the increasingly serious threat posed to children's well-being by HIV/AIDS. The secretariat replied that UNICEF continued to collaborate with WHO, other United Nations agencies and the United Nations Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on AIDS.

23. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the UNICEF priority focus on women and girls and for efforts to implement programmes aimed at their advancement. Some speakers asked about the evaluation of programmes for women and their significance to donors. Others requested that more emphasis be placed on women's health and education, especially in Africa, given the relationship between improvements in maternal health and education to the reduction of child mortality. The role of fathers was highlighted during the discussions, especially the importance of including them in programmes targeting women.

B. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

24. The Executive Board had before it a progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1995/15).

25. Many delegations expressed their commitment to meeting the goals set by the World Summit and reported on their Governments' progress, specifically in drafting and implementing national programmes of action (NPAs). Speakers also reaffirmed their commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children within the context of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

26. Concerning the issue of global goals, some delegations said that while goals were useful in establishing an international benchmark for child survival and health, others questioned whether attention to goals helped or hindered programme sustainability, national capacity-building and longer-term development. Many speakers said that goals and targets should focus on country-specific situations and address community needs. Some delegations stressed the importance of strengthening capacities for monitoring and evaluation at provincial and district levels to enable national Governments to formulate regional and provincial action plans, as well as progress reports on programme implementation and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Many speakers endorsed holding a mid-decade review of progress made in implementing the goals set at the World Summit.

27. A number of delegations urged that the mid-decade review be based on longer-term sustainability and sensitivity to constraints and shortfalls in particular countries and regions. Some speakers said that monitoring progress was the responsibility not just of UNICEF, but also of other United Nations agencies. (See decision 1995/14 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

C. UNICEF strategies in basic education

28. The Executive Board had before it a report on UNICEF strategies in basic education (E/ICEF/1995/16), which was introduced by the Director, Programme Division.

29. The Director-General of UNESCO, addressing the Executive Board, said that the two organizations were united in a common concern with meeting the educational needs of children and their families, and thus were linked in a very special partnership. The principal aim of the agencies' collaboration must be to provide each individual country with appropriate help in improving and expanding its educational services. The assets of UNICEF are its integrated and interdisciplinary approach to meeting children's development and survival needs, its strong presence in the field and its first-hand exposure to educational realities. UNESCO, for its part, is an intergovernmental agency specializing in education, with well established links to ministries of education and the educational, professional and research communities. UNESCO also has experience in regional cooperation and system-wide educational policy-making and planning, as well as a pool of qualified educational specialists in all regions. The qualities and resources of the two organizations must be brought together in a joint and constructive dialogue.

30. Many delegations expressed support for the strategy paper, particularly for the approach of placing education within a context of economic and social development and poverty alleviation. Several speakers stressed the importance of education as a developmental tool, with particular emphasis on the importance of science and technology. The paper's emphasis on education systems and primary education was well received, as was the emphasis on policy dialogue and long-term institutional and human resource development. Speakers stressed the need to develop national and local capacities, and, wherever possible, to utilize indigenous institutions and capacities rather than outside consultants and experts.

31. Speakers supported the emphasis on girls' education, with some stressing the need for UNICEF to focus on women's education as well. One delegation emphasized the importance of secondary education for girls for its broader implications on family planning, gender equity and development. Another delegation cited a research project that stressed the centrality of girls' and women's education to the sustainability of all other child survival and development activities. Another speaker said that the elimination of gender disparity in education would have positive effects on equity and social development.

32. The focus on the education of children in difficult circumstances, especially children in emergencies, was supported by delegations. A number of speakers addressed the serious problems confronting working children and the need for UNICEF to tackle this problem proactively.

33. One delegation stated that the highest priority was and should be survival, and that limits must be imposed on educational programmes that go beyond meeting the needs of people in such situations. The speaker added that many countries had been allocating the bulk of their financial contributions to UNICEF for emergency assistance, and that this was a matter of concern.

34. Several delegations said that basic education should cover a full range of learning needs of children, youth and adults, and go beyond conventional approaches.

35. Many delegations said that basic education must be considered a fundamental human right and that education plays a key role in developing people's awareness of their rights as citizens, and in maintaining a peaceful society. Within this context, it was said that basic education has to be both qualitative and universal. It was suggested that sections of the paper addressing intersectoral linkages could be strengthened.

36. The UNICEF proposal to diversify strategies for primary education was endorsed by several delegations, as was the call for enhanced quality of both formal and non-formal education, in order to avoid further inequity in the distribution of educational opportunities to the poor and disadvantaged sectors of society. Speakers also supported the paper's emphasis on community and parental participation, responsibility and empowerment. The need to enhance public awareness, wide social consultation and mobilization towards basic education at all levels of society was stressed by many delegations.

37. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the importance given by UNICEF to the education and training of teachers as a key strategy to achieve quality education. The need for greater country and donor support for education, particularly basic education, was stressed by a number of delegations.

38. According to several speakers, the strategy paper did not sufficiently emphasize early childhood development (ECD) and adult education. It was said that UNICEF needs to clarify its approaches to ECD, including issues of access to parents in the home and community, links between homes, communities and schools, and non-formal approaches.

39. Delegations also said that the division of labour between United Nations agencies, specifically UNESCO and UNICEF, needed to be clarified. The lack of programme initiatives specifically focused on addressing regional challenges was raised by a number of speakers. (See decision 1995/21 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

D. Greeting Card and related Operations

40. The Executive Board had before it the GCO financial report and accounts for the year ended 30 April 1994 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.6); the provisional report for the period 1 May 1994-30 April 1995 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.7); the GCO work plan and proposed budget for 1995 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8); and a proposal to harmonize the GCO fiscal year with the calendar year (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.9).

41. The reports were introduced by the Director, GCO, who made an in-depth presentation on GCO and its performance in the past year. He specifically highlighted the role of the National Committees for UNICEF and of the thousands of volunteers worldwide who had helped to increase substantially UNICEF income from the private sector.

42. While many speakers commended GCO for its actual and projected results, they noted that most of the growth was from private sector fund-raising activities. Some delegations commented on the positive impact of the Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP). One delegation highlighted the success of the "Change for Good" programme and supported the proposed plans for its expansion. Another delegation spoke of its plans to raise $75 million with Kiwanis International to help eradicate iodine deficiency disorders and of an arrangement to make UNICEF the sole benefactor of proceeds from Olympic Aid. A

few delegations stressed the importance of a previous Executive Board decision mandating that all private-sector income, including supplementary-funded income, be included in one report and reported through GCO to maximize transparency and accountability.

43. While noting the overall positive results of GCO, many delegations spoke of the declining profitability in the area of product sales. Some delegations requested further diversification of the product line, including country-specific designs and local production. GCO was encouraged to reduce the time-frame of the development of card and non-card products by taking advantage of modern technology and advanced computer systems. The Director, GCO, said that the drop in profitability in product sales was due partly to the continuing global recessionary climate and partly to the demand from many partners for an expanded product line, which often included non-card products with lower profit margins. He said GCO is examining methods to reduce the time-frame in its product development cycle, taking advantage where possible of technological innovations.

44. One delegation stated that GCO has had two purposes: to draw contributions from the private sector; and to educate it about the needs for assistance to children. The speaker urged that before serious deliberations were conducted on issues related to the improvement of GCO, including the 50 per cent profitability principle and the possibility of privatization, the Executive Board discuss which of these purposes should have greater importance.

45. Many delegations said that one reason for the slow growth in product sales was the constraint of the 50 per cent profitability objective mandated by the Executive Board, which they said hampered new initiatives, including the sale of GCO products through such new distribution channels as schools. Some speakers stressed the importance of maximizing income for UNICEF programmes and suggested that the 50 per cent profitability requirement be removed. One delegation said that the profitability of successful greeting card companies in the private sector was only 6-7 per cent. Other delegations stated that incremental income and high profitability are only part of the GCO mandate and that the importance of the GCO role in advocacy and education should not be neglected. One speaker said that the profitability target set for GCO was or primary concern and should, therefore, be maintained. While noting that GCO is a commercial operation in a highly competitive market, the Director, GCO, agreed that the primary focus for GCO should be to raise incremental funds while maintaining the 50 per cent profitability objective as a goal.

46. Some delegations questioned the timeliness and the necessity of merging the GCO Personnel Unit with the Division of Personnel, saying that GCO should have its own personnel staff because of the specific needs of GCO. It was suggested that the merge be postponed and be reviewed in the context of the follow-up to the management review.

47. Many delegations thanked GCO for providing the current campaign year's latest estimates in its work plan and budget, along with the five-year trends which had been requested by the Executive Board in 1994. Most delegations said that with this requirement met, it was no longer necessary to present the GCO provisional report presented annually to the Executive Board.

48. Concerning the proposal to harmonize the GCO fiscal year with that of other UNICEF divisions, many delegations questioned the advantages of the change, especially because this would require GCO to report its results based on provisional sales figures from its partners. Several delegations emphasized the

importance of accuracy in reporting as opposed to harmonized fiscal years. The secretariat explained that the GCO results included in the UNICEF consolidated financial report are annualized on the basis of the GCO annual financial report (four months) and its eight months results through to 31 December. It was suggested that this issue also be studied further in the context of the management review.

49. Some delegations referred to the Executive Board's approval of investment funds, including FDP and the Market Development Programme, which had helped to produce the successful results in private sector fund-raising. Continued success would imply ongoing close cooperation between GCO and National Committees for UNICEF. In this context, the UNICEF proposal not to fund the travel and per diem costs of National Committee participants at the annual Greeting Card Workshop for National Committees and related meetings was questioned. It was suggested by the Chairperson of the Standing Group of National Committees that a decision on this be deferred until the National Committees had been consulted and the implications assessed, especially in the light of new procedures under consideration for the annual Greeting Card Workshop with regard to product selection, use of art imaging technology and modern telecommunications. The Director, GCO, stated that while the matter was under review, he would ensure that all National Committees could participate in the 1995 workshop and related meetings.

50. While questioning the different formats of the GCO income statements in the three reports presented to the Board, many delegations expressed appreciation for the transparent presentation of table 1 of the GCO work plan and budget for 1995 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8). They recommended that GCO use this format in all future documentation presented to the Executive Board. Two delegations requested that GCO provide a breakdown of profitability by region in its work plan and budget, with recommended formats to be provided to the 1996 annual session of the Executive Board. In response to a question, the Director, GCO, stated that while the currency of record used by the United Nations was the United States dollar, the secretariat would try in future to include income details in local currency, in addition to United States dollars, to facilitate comparison of performance with prior years, thereby discounting/excluding the impact of exchange rate variances. One delegation said that in future, the GCO work plan and budget should be more user-friendly and business-like to allow for monitoring and evaluation of strategies.

51. Many delegations questioned the proposal made by Booz•Allen and Hamilton in the management review to merge Private Sector Fund-raising with the Programme Funding Office. They said that there were marked differences between government and private sector fund-raising, including the type and level of expertise required of the UNICEF personnel involved. On the other hand, speakers said that the management review provided a good framework to examine the structure, and appropriate location of GCO, as well as and the possible consolidation of GCO staff in one single headquarters location, while giving consideration to existing major markets and areas of potential growth. One delegation offered three principles to expand net income from the private sector in developing countries: the income generated should be additional to the general resources country programme allocation; the strategic importance of the decentralized operations of the regional support centres in Rio de Janeiro and Singapore should be maintained; and there should continue to be investments from FDP. The Director, GCO, said that the existing structure had emanated from the GCO internal management study conducted in 1992, the results of which had been endorsed by the Executive Board. The existing structure was global, with

headquarters in New York and Geneva, and while there were six geographic regions to monitor results, New York and Geneva were not defined as regions.

52. On working relations between the Executive Board and the annual meeting of the National Committees for UNICEF, one delegation proposed that matters related to GCO be considered during those annual meetings, prior to being taken up by the Executive Board. In future, reports of the annual meetings of the National Committees, including any draft decisions they might contain, should be submitted to the Executive Board for action.

53. In response to queries about the status of the Fund-raising Task Force, the Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, stated that National Committees for UNICEF would be part of the task force. However, due to time constraints, the terms of reference of the task force had not yet been discussed and that this would be done at a separate meeting. The Executive Director had decided that the National Committees would be represented on the Steering Committee on the management review implementation. (See decisions 1995/15 and 1995/20 for the texts of the decisions adopted by the Executive Board.)

E. Ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa

54. The Executive Board had before it a progress report on ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa (E/ICEF/1995/18), which was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes.

55. Several delegations stressed that Africa should remain the region of highest priority for UNICEF. They added that there is a need for partnerships in and for Africa to promote the survival, protection and development of African children. Special efforts were needed to monitor the effects of economic adjustment on African children and women and to protect them from adjustment measures. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, mentioned the Secretary-General's Special Initiative on Africa, which was being coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UNDP. In addition, UNICEF was working closely with WHO and UNESCO on special initiatives which would be presented to the Economic and Social Council at the end of June. This could provide important opportunities for new inputs into African development.

56. One delegation said that while several countries in sub-Saharan Africa might be making progress towards the mid-decade goals, statistics on poverty and other basic indicators in Africa left little room for the kind of optimism expressed in the report. It would be useful to draw up a table comparing African progress between 1984 and 1994 towards a small number of basic indicators with that of other regions. Another interesting statistic would be the relationship between budgetary allocations in the social and defense sectors. The delegation suggested an analysis of the impact of debt servicing on investment in Africa.

57. Another speaker agreed that the report did not portray the harsh reality facing African children and women. While UNICEF was making considerable efforts to alleviate the situation of children in Africa, they continued to face declining standards of living, rising poverty, a growing debt burden and deteriorating primary health care (PHC), water supply and education systems. While donor support seemed to be available for "loud" emergencies, many African children were living in a "silent" emergency situation. For example, a recent outbreak of meningitis had killed hundreds of children. New resources were

needed, but the challenge of mobilizing donors to support Africa remained. Several delegations said that the debt problem needed to be tackled. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, reported that UNICEF had facilitated 13 debt relief operations in Africa, often in collaboration with National Committees for UNICEF. Approximately $18 million had been raised in support of debt relief operations, freeing $34 million in development funds and retiring debt with a face value of $160 million. There were many more opportunities for debt swap operations and he urged Board members to pursue them as a matter of priority.

58. One speaker said that the report should have analysed the sustainability of achievements of the Bamako Initiative and requested a detailed report on how many districts in how many countries were implementing the Initiative. Also requested were the per capita cost and the number of Bamako Initiative health centres still dependent on UNICEF. Another delegation emphasized the Initiative as a means of national capacity-building, saying it should focus on the local production of essential drugs. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, reported that the Bamako Initiative now covered 50 million people and 3,500 districts in 28 countries, and that 80 per cent of Bamako Initiative centres were self-reliant. Many of them were providing incentives to staff and promoting the establishment of outreach centres. However, supplementary funds have not materialized and more resources were required.

59. A delegation stressed the importance of the education of girls and said that UNICEF should promote legal instruments, affirmative action and more aggressive advocacy to enhance the status of women. Another delegation said that UNICEF should retain its focus on women and children at the field level.

60. The provision of extra staff to the Africa region was no guarantee of more effective programme performance, said one speaker. UNICEF should begin to evaluate the results of the training programmes it had sponsored in Africa. UNICEF also should make more use of local capacity in Africa and concentrate on action at the field level. Local-level research and monitoring could be particularly effective for local capacity-building. Another delegation said that the report should have focused on achievements in strengthening national capacity in Africa, including vulnerability monitoring. An analysis was needed to determined how best to continue to promote capacity-building and empowerment in Africa.

61. Several delegations urged UNICEF to review the allocation of general resources to Africa. One speaker said that the proportion of UNICEF expenditures on Africa had not increased significantly between 1984 and 1994 and called for modifications in the system for the allocation of general resources to the region. This would allow issues of critical concern in Africa to be addressed. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, said that general resources ceilings for Africa had grown over the last 10 years. In several recent years, the secretariat also had been able to use general resources to cover unfunded supplementary funds for programmes related to the goals of the World Summit for Children. With the decline in the availability of general resources, this option was no longer available.

62. One delegation requested more analysis of population trends and activities in the areas of reproductive and sexual health. The same speaker asked why no mention had been made of collaboration with WHO on the Sick Child Initiative, with DHA on emergencies and with the United Nations system on the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on AIDS. Other delegations called for a more critical appraisal of the UNICEF role in relation to that of other agencies working in

Africa. The secretariat replied that UNICEF was working closely with DHA to refine the overall United Nations approach to emergencies.

63. One delegation pointed to the need to strengthen delivery systems at field level, saying that UNICEF should use local resources and technologies, particularly in the area of nutrition, aimed at sustaining and reinforcing community initiatives. Another delegation cautioned UNICEF about the promotion of breast-feeding in areas where HIV/AIDS was prevalent, since there was a high risk of HIV transmission. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, replied that UNICEF was following the WHO policy on this matter, adding that for poor families in areas where infectious diseases were prevalent, the risks of not breast-feeding outweighed those of doing so.

64. Some delegations urged UNICEF to provide emergency assistance not only to meet urgent relief needs, but also to support capacity-building for long-term stability in countries in complex emergency situations. Because education was critical to this task, UNICEF should mobilize support for education from other international institutions. One delegation expressed support to peace-building and crisis prevention in Africa, but called on UNICEF to analyse systematically its comparative advantage in emergencies.

65. Delegations underscored the importance of synchronizing country programmes with NPAs, especially because of the importance for mobilizing resources for Africa. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, agreed and reminded the Board that in a growing number of countries, UNICEF had synchronized its programme cycle with those of other members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP). (See decision 1995/18 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

F. Management review: issues concerning the UNICEF mission

66. The Executive Board had before it a report on issues concerning the UNICEF mission (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.11).

67. Introducing the report, the Executive Director reviewed progress to date on the implementation of the management review. External consultancies were needed for systems review in the areas of finance, information resources management and supply, but not all of the financial resources originally indicated would be needed. Valid questions had been raised about the relationship between the implementation bodies. A consultative, participatory process was needed, and the advisory councils would provide an opportunity to get ideas, support and views from staff so that they would have a stake in improving management. The Steering Committee consisted of senior staff plus some staff representatives. All of these bodies would provide consultation for the Executive Board and the Executive Director.

68. The paper before the Board was not the mission statement, she said, but it provided some background themes to facilitate discussion. It was expected that the draft mission statement would be presented to the Board at the first regular session of 1996. As a mission statement, it would be succinct, clear and inspiring.

69. There was general agreement on a number of points concerning the format and content of the mission statement. Delegations were almost unanimous in stating that the statement should be memorable and concise and that its preparation should involve a broad consultative process. Many speakers said that it should

be forward-looking, addressing changing global circumstances. It should emphasize what sets UNICEF apart from other organizations and not be too detailed and technical, as it must be accessible to the public. A number of delegations said that the mission statement would have to be updated periodically. One speaker stressed the importance of transparency in the preparatory process.

70. Many speakers said that the mission statement would not replace the UNICEF mandate and should not go beyond that mandate. It was stressed that existing resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board would have to be respected. However, one speaker said that it was now necessary to review the UNICEF mandate and bring it up to date in order to conserve and strengthen the organization and its special vocation for children. Another delegation said that because the UNICEF mandate is defined by its target groups - women and children - and not sectors, there was a need for coordination with other partners. A third speaker suggested a vigorous examination of the mandates of other agencies as part of this exercise. It also was suggested that UNICEF consider the results of the recent major international conferences in drafting the mission statement.

71. Several delegations raised the question of what is meant by the term "child". It was said by one that the term needs to be clarified, while others suggested using the definition used in the Convention on the Rights of the Child or defining a child as being under the age of 18 years.

72. Many delegations referred to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its place in the UNICEF mission statement. Several delegations said that the Convention should serve as the basis for the mission statement. Some delegations suggested that UNICEF should act as a critical partner of Governments, even monitoring non-compliance. Others stressed that UNICEF must act as an advocate, supporting Governments and States parties in implementing the Convention. It was suggested that the Convention serve as a framework for preparing country programmes. One speaker said that the Convention should be a flexible framework for UNICEF action and advocacy in different regions, recognizing regional differences. Some speakers said that primary responsibility for the Convention lay with the United Nations Centre on Human Rights and that the UNICEF role should complement that of the Centre. Others said they would welcome a discussion of the UNICEF role vis-à-vis that of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

73. Linked to the discussion of the Convention were comments on the possible role of UNICEF as a moral authority for children. Some delegations said that UNICEF should undertake such a role, while one said that this must be on the condition that UNICEF speaks globally, not just addressing the situation in developing countries. Many speakers, however, stressed the importance of neutrality, non-discrimination and humanitarianism on the part of UNICEF. Several delegations said that UNICEF must not act out of political considerations and must remain impartial.

74. The issue of advocacy by UNICEF was raised by several delegations. One speaker said that during the next decade, UNICEF should aim to shift its work to advocacy, research, information and publicity, subcontracting field work to the private sector in some situations, while continuing its present type of work in Africa and other priority areas. Another said that in the future, UNICEF could play a key role in policy advocacy for the well-being of the whole child.

75. Several speakers spoke of the role of UNICEF in industrialized countries in terms of advocacy, with most stressing the importance of priority for the most vulnerable countries, fund-raising and developing a global perspective on the situation and needs of children. The role of the National Committees for UNICEF was highlighted by some delegations.

76. One delegation stated that, given the drastic changes that had taken place in the conditions in which the world's children were living, the time had come to review the factors determining the allocation of general resources for implementation of CPRs and to search for a clearer definition of what a child is.

77. Many delegations said that the mission statement should address the UNICEF emergency mission. The need to balance emergency operations and long-term development was stressed by several speakers. Others said that UNICEF had an important role to play at the onset of an emergency, because of its field structure, and it was suggested that UNICEF set a limited time-frame for its emergency activities, allowing for coordination with DHA and other agencies. A speaker said that UNICEF should focus on children in its emergency operations. Other delegations suggested that UNICEF work in areas where it had expertise, including water supply, refugee children and the treatment of traumatized children. It also was suggested that UNICEF draw on the experience of countries ravaged by armed conflict and natural disaster. A representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) discussed collaboration between the two agencies, which took place in such areas as emergency operations themselves, standard-setting based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the reintegration and development of children displaced by emergencies. He said that few organizations were more important to UNHCR than UNICEF with its unique experience, expertise and track record.

78. The question of whether UNICEF should focus on adult women, in addition to children, was raised by many speakers. Several delegations stressed that UNICEF should concentrate on children, while giving priority to girls. Others said that, in general, UNICEF should promote and facilitate women's well-being beyond their reproductive roles, providing more direct assistance in countries where no other agencies were doing this work. It was said that UNICEF should work in areas where women's actions had an impact on child development. A delegation said that the rights of the child required that women's lives not be restricted to the household, and another said that strengthening the role of women and mothers would assure equal rights for children. Allowing women to fulfil their functions, including earning income, would assure children's well-being. Another speaker said that an operational balance should be found between children and women, viewing women as individuals with the power to shape and influence their own lives and paying particular attention to capacity-building and empowerment of girls and women.

79. The key strategies of service delivery, capacity-building and empowerment were emphasized by a number of speakers, as was the issue of sustainability. Many delegations suggested that there must be a balance between them, focusing on service delivery in the poorest countries and more on capacity-building and empowerment in others. A balance was needed between global goals and sustainability. Another speaker said that UNICEF, in effect, must work to do itself out of a job, and that the mission statement should underline the importance of national resources and indigenous capacity in development cooperation.

80. Speakers also discussed the comparative advantages of UNICEF. Several stressed the organization's flexibility, operational nature and field-oriented structure. What sets UNICEF apart from other agencies, said another delegation, is its holistic approach, its capacity to mobilize political and popular support and its ability to facilitate a response by other agencies. A speaker emphasized the catalytic role of UNICEF, leading different sectors in a country to work together in the service of children. At the same time, many delegations emphasized the importance of coordination and cooperation with other United Nations agencies and partners, including NGOs. Others stressed the need for accountability and the efficient use of resources.

81. One delegation stated that the inter-sessional meetings should be utilized for substantive discussions between Executive Board members and other concerned delegations, as only extremely limited time was available during regular and annual sessions for deliberations on the management review.

G. Proposals for UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews

West and Central Africa

82. The Executive Board had before it one full four-year CPR and recommendation for additional general resources for Chad (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.15) and recommendations for short-duration country programmes and/or additional general resources and "stand-alone" supplementary funding proposals for Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zaire (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.28). The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the CPRs, which were approved by the Executive Board. (See decision 1995/16 for the details of the programmes approved by the Executive Board.)

Middle East and North Africa

83. The Executive Board had before it recommendations for short-duration country programmes and/or for additional general resources to fund already approved programmes for Algeria, Oman, the Sudan and Palestinian children and women in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.30). The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa presented the CPRs and a review paper on UNICEF assistance to Palestinian children and women (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.40).

84. Several delegations expressed support for the programme for Palestinian women and children in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza. They praised UNICEF involvement in the development of a comprehensive plan for children and women in the West Bank and Gaza. Some delegations commended the choice of strategies, particularly the emphasis on capacity-building through support to NGOs and community organizations. Coordination of UNICEF work with the Palestinian Authority was stressed by two delegations. One speaker emphasized that UNICEF should avoid duplication, improve policy dialogue and focus on the rational allocation of responsibilities with other partners. A number of delegations reiterated that the plight of Palestinian refugees outside of the camps, particularly Palestinians in Lebanon, should not be forgotten despite the peace process. Cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East and with the Office of the Representative of the Secretary-General for the Occupied Territories was welcomed.

85. A delegation noted the intention of the secretariat to submit a unified programme of cooperation to the Executive Board in 1997. The same speaker proposed that UNICEF have a formal agreement that would clarify its role with respect to Palestinian women and children. The same delegation said that UNICEF should concur with the practice of other United Nations agencies and refer to the West Bank and Gaza as either "occupied territories" or "occupied territory".

86. One speaker expressed the hope that donors would fulfil their pledges and enable the Palestinian Authority to implement its plans, especially in the areas of health, education and social welfare. The delegation's Government was ready to contribute its experience and know-how in that regard, in cooperation with UNICEF and other agencies. The speaker mentioned the contribution of GCO to strengthening the fund-raising capacity of its National Committee.

87. Concerning the Sudan country programme, one delegation commended UNICEF support to NGOs and other agencies involved with children in especially difficult circumstances and the focus on eradication of harmful traditional practices. However, another speaker expressed disappointment with the lack of information on the civil war in the CPR. The delegation sought clarification on the division of work between the Khartoum and Nairobi offices as well as details of how the $15 million requested would be utilized. The work of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) was commended, particularly its monitoring and donor reporting. However, the Khartoum office was criticized for its inadequate monitoring and reporting systems. The regional director explained that the submission was for a short-duration country programme and that the civil war had been addressed in the long-term country programme. The $15 million will be disbursed throughout the country. The regional director noted the Board's concerns with coordination, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and said that efforts would be made to improve reporting by the Khartoum office.

88. A number of delegations endorsed the country programme for Algeria. However, one speaker expressed regret about particular statements in the document, saying that the statements were not relevant to the situation of children. The regional director responded that the necessary corrigendum had been made to the CPR. One delegation commended Algeria's enactment of the "Kafala Law", which protects the rights of abandoned children, and encouraged UNICEF to advocate such laws in other countries.

89. Delegations of some of the countries whose programme had been adopted expressed their appreciation to UNICEF and the Executive Board for their support. (See decision 1995/16 for the details of the programmes approved by the Executive Board.)

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

90. The Executive Board had before it recommendations for full country programmes for Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and a recommendation for area-based programme support (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.25), in addition to recommendation for short-duration country programmes for Moldova and Turkey and a recommendation for additional general resources for Turkey (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.31). The Regional Director presented the CPRs and the Area Representative for the Central Asian Republics and Kazakstan made an in-depth presentation on those countries.

91. Concerning the country programme for Moldova, one speaker noted its longer-term development approach, but stated that the programme seemed too ambitious

for a two-year period. The regional director said that the programme was in its early stages and that it was based on PHC and maternal and child health.

92. Several delegations endorsed the programmes for the Central Asian republics and Kazakstan, but stated that there was insufficient information and analysis in the documentation. More specifically, one delegation pointed out that there was no information in the CPRs on expenditures for the previous cooperation period. The area representative said that the information was available on request. The same delegation said that there was no clear analysis of the applicability of the three strategies of service delivery, empowerment and capacity-building, and asked about the coordination of development assistance. The area representative said that UNICEF works closely with the World Bank and bilateral donors. Furthermore, as the area and field office have more access than other agencies to women and children, UNICEF has helped the Governments concerned to coordinate field activities which involve international aid agencies.

93. Asked about variations in immunization coverage levels in the five countries, the area representative said that many of the countries in the region had experienced shortages of vaccines for the past four years, but the situation was expected to improve in 1995. Two speakers welcomed the opportunity to discuss regional cooperation issues, particularly environmental and health issues related to the Aral Sea. Other delegations suggested that UNICEF should identify areas of greatest need for the children and women affected by this environmental disaster. The area representative said that UNICEF had already identified the three provinces most seriously affected by the Aral Sea disaster and was developing a programme in close cooperation with the countries concerned.

94. One delegation found the programmes for the five countries to be overly ambitious, given the available resources, wide range of activities and the pace of the government implementation. The speaker also stated that the programmes had a strong base for traditional UNICEF activities and recommended that the programmes have more focused activities and a more strategic choice of interventions. The same delegation commended UNICEF, the Government of Japan and the Governments in the region for their efforts in establishing a vaccine independence initiative and asked UNICEF to share information on its progress.

95. A speaker expressed concern that the documentation did not address the resurgence of diphtheria in the region, particularly in the Central Asian republics, Kazakstan and the Caucasus region. Specifically, Moldova had one of the highest rates in the region. The regional director said that the Inter-agency Immunization Coordination Committee, which includes UNICEF, WHO and Rotary International, was working on a joint appeal for diphtheria control, to be launched in Geneva in June 1995.

96. Two delegations expressed appreciation for the support provided by the international donor community, United Nations agencies and NGOs for the emergency in Tajikistan. Delegations from the region thanked UNICEF for its support in the difficult transition period. Lastly, one delegation noted that the country programme in Turkey had accelerated achievement of the mid-decade goals. (See decision 1995/16 for the details of the programmes approved by the Executive Board.)

H. UNICEF strategies in water and environmental sanitation

97. The Executive Board had before it a report on UNICEF strategies in water and environmental sanitation (E/ICEF/1995/17).

98. Introducing the report, the Director, Programme Division, said that water and sanitation were not just basic human needs, but also vital elements in ensuring the survival and well-being of children and adults. He added that the reference in the report to water and sanitation as a basic right was not meant to imply a right in the legal sense of universally recognized human rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognized access to clean drinking water and environmental sanitation as an essential measure for attaining the right to health. As with other economic, social and cultural rights, the Convention recognized that universal access to water and sanitation was to be achieved progressively to the maximum extent of available resources and where needed, within the framework of international cooperation.

99. Many delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and clear strategy outlined in the report, and for the collaborative and transparent preparatory process, which had involved a wide range of partners. Speakers said that this process should continue during the implementation of the strategy at regional and country levels. Many delegations specifically referred to the need to pay special attention to Africa in implementing the strategy.

100. Delegations raised a number of issues related to programme sustainability. Some stressed the need for UNICEF to play a major role in building government capacity in the areas of policy formulation and strategy development in close collaboration with other agencies. The secretariat cited such recent examples of collaboration as inter-agency missions to Malawi, Myanmar and South Africa.

101. A number of delegations acknowledged the importance that UNICEF placed on gender issues in the sector. However, one speaker said that the report should have included gender analysis to identify women's and men's roles in health and hygiene activities, with the aim of involving more men. Several delegations stressed the importance placed on women's capacity-building for decision-making, implementation and management of water and sanitation programmes as a key prerequisite for empowerment and sustainable development. However, men's participation also must be encouraged in order to share work responsibilities, especially in operation and maintenance.

102. Many speakers expressed support for the proposal to increase attention to environmental sanitation and hygiene promotion as a fundamental contribution to child survival, protection and development. UNICEF was urged to increase the funds allocated in country programmes for this activity. Several delegations supported the new UNICEF emphasis on building capacity for community-based water resources management, which includes solid and liquid waste management within the context of Agenda 21. Although they said that the main focus of UNICEF should continue to be in rural areas, several delegations stressed the need for UNICEF to emphasize poor populations living in such environmentally vulnerable areas as slums and marginal urban pockets.

103. Some delegations highlighted the need for UNICEF to develop clear messages to the field and for operational guidelines to accompany the strategy, enabling field staff to begin its implementation. Speakers emphasized the importance of follow-up through the development of region- and country-specific strategies.

104. A number of delegations urged UNICEF to continue to promote low-cost, appropriate and user-friendly technologies that are sustainable locally, allowing UNICEF to reach more people with fewer resources. Other speakers highlighted the importance of social mobilization. Several delegations said that the strategy would help UNICEF to help Governments standardize technologies and approaches in order to maximize its resource base and ensure programme sustainability, especially at the local level. One speaker emphasized the importance of decentralization.

105. Several delegations recommended that UNICEF strengthen its human resources in this sector, especially in Africa and some parts of Asia and the Pacific. Others recommended upgrading of staff skills. Many speakers encouraged UNICEF to increase the resources allocated to the sector. One speaker expressed concern about delays in donor reporting.

106. Many delegations urged UNICEF to support research and development, especially in support of low-cost sanitation and its promotion and in improving hygiene behaviour. This should be done in close collaboration with other partners and local institutions and be applied at the grass-roots level.

107. Concerning emergencies, several delegations said that UNICEF should continue its emergency operations in the sector, but also should assess its limitations. In many instances, UNICEF could help other partners to participate in emergency operations, allowing UNICEF to focus on long-term development programmes. The secretariat said that networking with NGOs and other partners would be made a priority at field level.

108. One delegation expressed concern about the vagueness of the division of labour between UNICEF and its partners, especially the role of other concerned United Nations agencies. Addressing the issue of collaboration in general, delegations urged UNICEF to take a lead role in this sector and to prepare a document clearly identifying the role of different partners, as well as their relative strengths and the complementary role each could play in the sector.

109. Many delegations said that the strategy was a generic framework which would need to be adapted at regional and country levels. A number of speakers requested clarification of the role of the headquarters water and environmental sanitation section vis-à-vis that of regional and country programme activities. (See decision 1995/22 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

I. Other business

Audit of the Kenya country office

110. The Executive Director briefed the Executive Board on the results of an internal audit investigation carried out by UNICEF into instances of fraud and mismanagement in the Kenya country office. She said that the auditors had completed the bulk of their work and a report of their findings was given to her the preceding day.

111. The current audit investigation into the situation in the Kenya country office began in January 1995, she said. It followed an earlier audit carried out in November-December 1994 which had revealed serious irregularities. The auditors were wrapping up their investigation, and it was clear that there had been serious fraud and mismanagement in the Kenya country office. It was

estimated that UNICEF had suffered losses of more than $1 million in personal fraud by staff members, and that there had been gross mismanagement of resources amounting to $8-9 million. The lack of adequate management in the Kenya country office had led to numerous disbursements which had not been monitored adequately and could not be accounted for. Investigations had revealed fraud in many of those transactions and excessive overhead costs. Mismanagement also had resulted from working with too many local partners, some of whom had not been properly registered.

112. Eight staff members had already been dismissed as a result of the audit findings and a further 15 had been charged with serious misconduct, she said. One more had been charged with mismanagement, bringing the total number of staff involved to 24. On 24 May, UNICEF had sent the two former heads of the office, who had been suspended since the beginning of the audit investigation, a list of the charges against them. Like all other staff members involved in this situation, they had been given a reasonable time to respond to the charges in respect of their right to due process. All staff had the right to due process. If and where cases of fraud were established, staff would be dismissed and evidence in the possession of UNICEF would be turned over to the Kenyan authorities for criminal investigation. UNICEF also would take all possible measures to recover funds which had been stolen or misappropriated.

113. The Executive Director said she would take immediate steps to strengthen accountability and financial management procedures within the organization. Management reform would be a number one priority. She added that UNICEF had several offices in Nairobi, including the regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa, an office for OLS and one to serve the Somalia country programme. The audit affected only the Kenya country office.

114. Delegations thanked the Executive Director for her frankness and rapid response to the situation. However, many deplored the situation and expressed concern about the possible impact on fund-raising and on the overall reputation of UNICEF. The importance of transparency was stressed, as was the need to implement management systems that would prevent a similar situation occurring elsewhere. Some speakers said they hoped that this was an isolated incident. Several delegations asked the Executive Director to report on measures taken at the third regular session in September.

115. The Executive Director said that she did not believe that this was a systemic problem and that overall, UNICEF staff had a high level of integrity. Some short-term steps could be taken, and she had asked for recommendations on ways to strengthen regional offices so they could provide more oversight. Training of new UNICEF country representatives would give more emphasis to operations. Mechanisms would be set up to monitor any dramatic staffing increases. (See decision 1995/19 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

UNICEF purchase policy

116. Referring to a recent news article concerning the UNICEF policy not to purchase supplies from companies that exploit children, a delegation urged the Executive Director to focus the attention of UNICEF on various issues related to the exploitation of children. These included the sexual exploitation of children, the sale of children, child prostitution and the sale of children's organs. UNICEF should publicize the facts about such matters and devise measures to address them adequately. Child abuse was a serious violation of human rights, as indicated in the report of the special rapporteur on children.

The report also had revealed that child labour was not confined to developing countries.

117. The conditions of child labour in her country, as described in the article, made sensational news, but in fact, for several years UNICEF had ensured that supplies bought there were certified. Her country's policy on child labour had evolved over the years and its laws were consistent with the International Labour Conference resolution of 1979 which called for a combination of prohibitory measures and measures for humanizing child labour wherever it could not be eliminated in the short run. In addition, her Government's Planning Commission had allocated $10 million to eliminate child labour in hazardous employment. However, along with other developing countries, her Government was averse to linking international trade and labour standards. What was required was a non-coercive upgrading of labour standards at the international level, and national action to do the same.

118. Another speaker expressed appreciation to the Executive Director for her comments as reflected in the news article and the explanation that UNICEF would continue to work against the use of child labour throughout the world. She commended the Executive Director for her proactive approach in developing a purchase policy to ensure that UNICEF, the world's leading advocate for children, would not be involved in purchasing anything from a company that used child labour.

Election of Executive Board representatives to the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education

119. The Executive Board elected to the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education the nominees from Brazil submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean group of States, thus completing its elections to the Joint Committee. (See decision 1995/23 for the decision adopted by the Board.)

Draft agenda for the third regular session of 1995

120. The Secretary of the Executive Board distributed the draft provisional agenda and outline of the timetable for the third regular session of 1995. One speaker asked that the question of follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) be considered as a separate agenda item at a point fairly early in the session. The same speaker requested that an item on the relationship between the Executive Board, the National Committees for UNICEF and the Committee's annual meeting be added to the agenda.

121. Another delegation said that several recent Executive Board decisions on shorter documents and decisions had not been followed up properly. The speaker asked that the secretariat distribute a table showing the documents requested by the Board for future sessions, and that at all future sessions the Board consider an agenda item on its working methods in order to assess the situation.

122. A third delegation introduced a draft decision on the format of future Executive Board decisions, which was adopted by the Board after it agreed to waive the "24-hour" rule for submission of draft proposals. (See decision 1995/24 for the text adopted by the Executive Board.)

J. Concluding remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

123. The Executive Director thanked the members of the Executive Board for their cooperation during this, her first session as Executive Director. She looked forward to working with the Board in the future. In written remarks distributed to delegations (E/ICEF/1995/CRP.30), she announced that the 1995 staff awards had been presented to the staff of the UNICEF offices in Haiti and in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also congratulated staff who had retired in the past year and mentioned staff who had died in that period.

124. The President thanked the Executive Director for her dynamism, leadership and frankness, and said that her cooperation, support, openness and readiness for dialogue boded well for the future of UNICEF. He also thanked the members of the Executive Board for their support in keeping to the agenda and in respecting the time-limits set for interventions. The system of warning lights for speakers - used for the first time at United Nations Headquarters - helped with the Board's management of time. However, the Board continued to experience some problems with the issuance of documents in all languages. In future, reducing the length of the documents would improve the situation. The Executive Board had requested shorter documents, even establishing page limits, and that should be respected, as should the deadlines for their appearance in language versions prior to Board sessions. (See E/ICEF/1995/CRP.31 for the full text of his remarks.)

III. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

125. The Executive Board reviewed the Executive Director's annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ICEF/1995/14 (Part III)), which was prepared in response to Board decision 1995/5. The Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, introduced the report, as well as the report on UNICEF participation in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) (E/ICEF/1995/19), which was also being considered under this agenda item.

126. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report, emphasizing that they considered it important that UNICEF participate actively in the process of revitalizing the Economic and Social Council, which now had important responsibilities in the area of United Nations system-wide governance. In this regard, the suggestion was made that, in the future, there should be a joint report to the Council from UNICEF, UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund, and the secretariat supported this suggestion. The suggestion also was made that the Council be kept apprised of the development of the UNICEF mission statement.

A. Measures taken in the implementation of the provisions the triennial policy review of operational activities

127. The upcoming triennial policy review, aimed at helping to strengthen coordination within the United Nations family and to create a more coherent system, was of special concern to UNICEF, reported the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes. UNICEF, he said, attached particular importance to the establishment of common goals and strategies through the preparation of CSNs and NPAs. General Assembly resolution 47/199 was useful in emphasizing the need for coordination without interfering with government plans and policies. He also noted practical developments in the programme area (e.g. the harmonization of cycles, common programmes, the resident coordinator system, etc.) and in the operations area (e.g. common premises, the simplification and harmonization of procedures, field-level monitoring, etc.).

128. Most delegations concurred that implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199 was vital for the future credibility of the United Nations, and welcomed progress made to date as well as UNICEF work in carrying out action at the country level. Much remained to be done, however, to enhance United Nations operational activities.

129. One delegation commented that UNICEF had failed to mention the preparation of the UNICEF mission statement, and the secretariat acknowledged the omission. With regard to comments about insufficient efforts at the country level, the secretariat reported on field visits that were undertaken every two years or so to evaluate collaborative efforts. It was suggested that perhaps ways could be found to report on a country-by-country basis.

130. The fact that increasing numbers of countries were preparing CSNs was viewed as a positive sign. According to one delegation, country strategies were more important than global strategies and he commended senior UNICEF staff for consulting regularly with field staff on this issue. Another speaker mentioned that countries that were lagging behind in the preparation of their CSNs should receive further assistance. The secretariat clarified that it had been difficult for the system to move quickly on this issue. UNICEF wanted to see

Governments "in the driver's seat", focusing on collaborative action, but ultimately, the United Nations system was in the hands of Governments.

131. The further strengthening of the resident coordinator system was seen as essential to the effective implementation of resolution 47/199, and UNICEF was urged to continue to participate actively in these efforts. The importance of the need to have highly qualified staff, especially in view of their impact on programme implementation and resource mobilization, was stressed by several speakers. In response to a query, the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, informed the meeting that several UNICEF representatives had been seconded to UNDP as resident coordinators and that he expected the process to continue, but in a more systematic manner, through the use of a "pool" of qualified candidates.

132. The harmonization of cycles and the overall need to move forward with inter-agency collaboration was emphasized by several delegations. With regard to the latter, the roles of JCGP and the Administrative Committee on Coordination in those efforts were considered timely and welcome.

133. Several queries were raised about the lack of progress towards the development of a common manual. The secretariat explained that this was difficult to achieve, especially among JCGP partners, since each organization had its own unique mandate and working methods. It might be possible, however, to focus on certain aspects where there could be greater commonality, such as in the area of evaluation.

134. Regarding progress made in the area of common premises, the secretariat assured Board members that UNICEF was strongly committed to this and, thus, was playing an active role. UNICEF was also looking at ways to have common services, such as security, telecommunications, etc.

135. In summary, the secretariat enumerated the following major areas of significant progress: the resident coordinator system and the idea of field teams; participation in the country programme approach; the process of follow-up to conferences; and recognition of the need for NPAs and CSNs to achieve the goals.

B. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

136. The secretariat informed Board members that UNICEF was working within the framework of its policies on family planning, HIV/AIDS and youth behaviour. Delegations were generally pleased with UNICEF efforts in ICPD follow-up. It was felt that the Board was provided with a clear vision of the role of UNICEF and delegations looked forward to reviewing the report on ICPD follow-up being prepared by the secretariat for the third regular session of 1995. One delegation stressed the importance of taking into account the outcomes of international conferences, while another welcomed UNICEF involvement in the inter-agency task force and its work at the country level. Another speaker commended UNICEF for its holistic approach to the Plan of Action, while encouraging the secretariat to continue to work within its mandate. While stressing complementarity, UNICEF should preserve its own unique identity.

137. One delegation expressed concern about the UNICEF approach to ICPD follow-up, since the relevant report seemed rather vague and superficial. The speaker urged UNICEF to take a more active and positive stand on the matter, as

had already been indicated during the discussions on ICPD follow-up held at the second regular session of 1995.

C. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

138. As the Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, mentioned in his introduction, UNICEF was focusing on country-levels in its follow-up to WSSD. Several delegations expressed concern that inter-agency discussions on WSSD follow-up were still at such a preliminary stage. The secretariat concurred and acknowledged its support of accelerated efforts in this area. Another speaker noted that the key elements of WSSD follow-up were related directly to UNICEF and urged the secretariat to play an active and supportive role, especially in view of the close links with the World Summit for Children, ICPD and the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women.

139. One delegation expressed its concern with the UNICEF insistence on promoting the 20/20 initiative. The speaker hoped that in the future, UNICEF could base its actions on the consensus achieved at the Summit, which was that the initiative would be undertaken by those developed and developing country partners that were interested in doing so. Other delegations felt that the 20/20 initiative was very relevant and supported the efforts of UNICEF and others to help direct resources to the areas most in need. However, several speakers emphasized the importance of the United Nations taking the lead in the initiative. Two delegations reminded the Board that there was consensus on the language and that, therefore, the initiative could be supported.

140. The Board took note of the annual report to the Economic and Social Council and decided to transmit it to the Council (see decision 1995/17 for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board).

IV. DECISIONS ADOPTED

1995/14. Progress report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1994/A/2 (E/ICEF/1994/13) concerning a mid-decade review of progress towards implementation of the commitments of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children,

1. Requests the Executive Director to play an active, supportive role in helping to implement General Assembly resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990 and to undertake consultations within the United Nations system and with members of the Executive Board as to how UNICEF can best support this process called for by the World Summit for Children and Executive Board decision 1994/A/2;

2. Proposes the sixth anniversary of the World Summit for Children, 30 September 1996, as an appropriate date for the results of such a review to be announced;

3. Urges all Governments to participate in the review by carrying out prior to September 1996 assessments of progress at mid-decade towards the goals of the World Summit for Children;

4. Further urges countries, in carrying out such assessments, to include provincial and local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and civic groups in this activity, in the spirit of paragraph 34 (i) of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children;

5. Calls upon international and national NGOs to provide input to the assessment by Governments of progress as of mid-decade and of the steps that need to be taken to assure attainment of the year 2000 goals;

6. Requests the secretariat to support countries, as requested and within the context of UNICEF country programmes, in the gathering and analysis of data on progress towards the mid-decade and decade goals and the overall assessment of the country's response to the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. All work done in support of the gathering of data for the mid-decade and end-decade goals should be standardized, coordinated with and shared by other United Nations agencies and result in improved and sustainable national capacity in gathering and analysing data on the situation of children;

7. Also requests the secretariat to report back to the Board in future Executive Director's reports on the cost of the mid-decade review exercise to UNICEF and its country programmes and, where possible, to other partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund and other United Nations partners;

8. Further requests the secretariat to work closely with other United Nations entities, particularly WHO, UNESCO and the United Nations Statistical Office, in systematizing the results of national assessments of progress and other relevant data, with a view to presenting, by the middle of 1996, a coherent and comprehensive statement of the status of achievement of the

mid-decade goals and of progress towards the goals for children and development by the year 2000.

Annual session
25 May 1995

1995/15. Greeting Card and related Operations - financial reports

The Executive Board

Takes note of the Greeting Card and related Operations (GCO) provisional report for the period 1 May 1994-30 April 1995 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.7 and Corr.1) and the GCO financial report and accounts for the year ended 30 April 1994 (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.6).

Annual session
25 May 1995

1995/16. Proposals for UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews

The Executive Board

Approves the following recommendations of the Executive Director for programme cooperation as summarized in document E/ICEF/1995/P/L.10 and Add.1:

(a) $49,870,615 for general resources funding and $48,281,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in Africa, as follows:

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1995/
Cameroon	1995	750 000		P/L.28
Cameroon	1996-1997	2 800 000	6 000 000	P/L.28
Chad	1995	181 680		P/L.15
Chad	1996-2000	8 500 000	16 025 000	P/L.15
Gabon	1996	750 000	300 000	P/L.28
Guinea	1995	715 935		P/L.28
Guinea	1995	765 000		P/L.28
Guinea	1996	2 000 000	5 415 000	P/L.28
Nigeria	1996	16 000 000	7 000 000	P/L.28
Sierra Leone	1995	200 000		P/L.28
Sierra Leone	1996-1997	3 600 000	6 776 000	P/L.28
Zaire	1995	373 000		P/L.28
Zaire	1996-1997	14 000 000	6 000 000	P/L.28

(b) $36,697,002 for general resources funding and $84,800,000 for supplementary funding for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, as follows:

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1995/
Kazakstan	1995-1999	5 000 000	20 000 000	P/L.25
Kyrgyzstan	1995-1999	5 000 000	10 000 000	P/L.25
Moldova	1995-1996	1 500 000	2 000 000	P/L.31
Tajikistan	1995-1999	6 250 000	20 000 000	P/L.25
Turkmenistan	1995-1999	5 000 000	10 000 000	P/L.25
Turkey	1995	497 002		P/L.31
Turkey	1996	2 200 000	2 800 000	P/L.31
Uzbekistan	1995-1999	6 250 000	20 000 000	P/L.25
Programme support and operations	1995-1999	5 000 000		P/L.25

(c) $13,096,933 for general resources funding and $45,260,000 for supplementary funding for the Middle East and North Africa, as follows:

Country	Period	General resources	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1995/
Algeria	1995	357 676		P/L.30
Algeria	1996-1997	2 000 000	1 000 000	P/L.30
Oman	1995	129 416		P/L.30
Oman	1996	1 000 000		P/L.30
Palestinian women and children in:				
Lebanon	1996-1997	700 000	1 040 000	P/L.30
Syrian Arab Republic	1996-1997	400 000	620 000	P/L.30
West Bank and Gaza	1995	409 841		P/L.30
West Bank and Gaza	1996-1997	2 400 000	32 600 000	P/L.30
Sudan	1995	200 000		P/L.30
Sudan	1996	5 500 000	10 000 000	P/L.30

Annual session
25 May 1995

1995/17. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

Takes note of the Executive Director's annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ICEF/1994/14 (Part III)) and the report on UNICEF follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (E/ICEF/1995/19) and decides to transmit these reports to the Economic and Social Council at its 1995 substantive session.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/18. Ensuring child survival, protection and development in Africa

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1994/A/3 (E/ICEF/1994/13),

1. Reaffirms its strong and consistent commitment to Africa as the region of greatest need and highest priority and requests the Executive Director to develop specific strategies for translating this priority into concrete actions, including proposing increases in resource allocations for country programmes in Africa;

2. Reaffirms its commitment and support to the Secretary-General's Special Initiative for Africa, welcomes the UNICEF contribution to date and requests the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF continues to play an active role in the inter-agency work on the implementation of this Initiative;

3. Acknowledges the critical role of basic education in development and, for that purpose: (a) urges African Governments to develop feasible and dynamic plans of action and allocate resources aimed at reversing the falling rates of enrolment and moving towards the Education for All goals agreed to at the World Conference on Education for All and the World Summit for Children; and (b) requests the Executive Director to support countries in formulating such plans and mobilizing external resources for their implementation;

4. Calls upon the Governments of African States to increase and strengthen the participation of communities in the planning, implementation and management of programmes for the delivery of social services, including the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development;

5. Requests the Executive Director, in close cooperation with African Governments, to coordinate UNICEF activities with those of other United Nations agencies, particularly the World Health Organization, and to participate in strengthening existing strategies and programmes to assist in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Malaria;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to develop partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to support African countries' efforts to meet specific goals or sets of goals within their national programmes of action;

7. Urges donor countries and international financial institutions to consider all possible measures to reduce the official debt burden of African countries, including debt cancellation and debt conversions for social investment in health, education and water supply and sanitation, and encourages the Executive Director to advocate at the highest possible levels for the reduction of African bilateral and multilateral debt, because of the adverse effects on children;

8. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with regional and subregional organizations in Africa, in an effort to improve the well-being of children and women in Africa;

9. Requests the Executive Director to work for additional resources from both private and public sources for programmes in Africa through, inter alia,

strengthening its cooperation with multilateral and bilateral funding institutions including the World Bank and the African Development Bank;

10. Reaffirms its commitment to local capacity-building as a critical programme strategy, and requests the Executive Director to strengthen collaboration with African institutions and non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of UNICEF-supported country programmes;

11. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF operational capacity in Africa is further enhanced within the context of the management reform;

12. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the current decision on ensuring child survival, protection, and development in Africa at its annual session of the Executive Board in 1997.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/19. Audit of the Kenya country office

The Executive Board

1. Notes the findings of the audit investigation into the instances of fraud and mismanagement in the UNICEF Kenya country office;

2. Expresses deep concern over these serious events;

3. Welcomes the measures already taken by the Executive Director and her statement to the Board on 25 May on the immediate steps she proposes to take in order to strengthen accountability and financial procedures within the organization;

4. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that these remedial measures will be designed so as to prevent any recurrence of fraud or mismanagement throughout UNICEF;

5. Requests the Executive Director to provide a further progress report to the 1995 third regular session of the Executive Board on both the specific situation in Kenya and the concrete steps being taken to strengthen financial management, accountability and oversight in UNICEF.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/20. Greeting Card and related Operations work plan and proposed budget for 1995

A. Greeting Card and related Operations (GCO) budgeted expenditures for the 1995 season

The Executive Board

1. Approves for the fiscal year 1 May 1995 to 30 April 1996 budgeted expenditures of $87.1 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Director's Office	0.9
Product Line and Marketing	48.2
Private Sector Fund-raising	9.1
Operations and Finance	14.3
Subtotal a/	72.5
Non-operating expenses: b/	
Market Development Programme	4.0
Fund-raising Development Programme	7.0
Exhibits	0.1
Office move-related costs	1.8
GCO share in UNICEF administration costs	0.2
Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme	1.5
Subtotal	14.6
Total expenditures, consolidated	87.1

a/ For details, see table 1A of document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8.

b/ For details, see table 1 of document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures as summarized in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8 and to increase the expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of annex I to the same document, should the apparent net proceeds from product sales and/or private sector fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III of annex I, and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To transfer funds when necessary between the various budgets as detailed under paragraph 1 above;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, owing to currency fluctuations, to ensure the continued operation o GCO.

B. Budgeted income for the 1995 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the fiscal year 1 May 1995 to 30 April 1996, GCO net proceeds are budgeted at $234.0 million as shown in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. Approves the changes in posts as presented in document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8, with the exception of the proposed transfer of the Personn Unit and no reduction in the number of posts;

2. Renews the Fund-raising Development Programme with $7 million established for 1995;

3. Renews the Market Development Programme with $4 million established for 1995;

4. Authorizes the expansion of the Central and Eastern European Nationa Committees Development Programme to include four additional National Committee i.e., Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia, as recommended in paragraph 11 document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8, and for this purpose, approves a budget of $1.5 million, of which $0.2 million is for one-time investments;

5. Notes the three different income statement formats presented by GCO its Board documents and requests the Executive Director, in the interest of achieving greater transparency and consistency with regard to the performance the two income-generating activities, i.e., product sales and private sector fund-raising, to use the income statement format as presented in table 1 of th GCO work plan and budget (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8) for all future GCO documents presented to the Executive Board. Furthermore, the Executive Board decides th GCO present a regional analysis of profitability, with recommendations, in its next work plan and budget;

6. Notes that GCO has incorporated the provisional results of the preceding year as latest estimates in the GCO work plan and budget (E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8), as recommended at the 1994 annual session of the Executi Board, and decides that in the interest of reducing the workload for the secretariat and the Executive Board, that GCO should no longer submit a provisional report to the Board;

7. Notes the Executive Director's proposal in paragraph 20 of E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.8 to move the GCO Personnel Unit from GCO to the Division of Personnel; however, given GCO's unique requirements for staff to work with private sector counterparts, decides that this question be considered further the Executive Director in the context of the management review;

8. Notes the Executive Director's proposal in document E/ICEF/1995/AB/L.9 that GCO, in the interest of increased transparency and harmonization, should change its fiscal year from 1 May-30 April to 1 January-31 December, and decides that this question be considered further by the Executive Director in the context of the management review;

9. Decides that, in the context of the follow-up of the management review, a study, with recommendations, should be presented in the next GCO work plan, of the optimum structure and location of GCO, so as to reflect its main markets, business partners and areas of potential growth, not excluding the possibility of consolidation of its staff in a single headquarters location.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/21. UNICEF strategies in basic education

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report on UNICEF strategies in basic education (E/ICEF/1995/16);

2. Endorses the framework for education programmes, including the scope, objectives, areas of action and strategies, set forth in document E/ICEF/1995/16;

3. Encourages the UNICEF secretariat to continue its support to countries to achieve the 1990s Education for All goals by implementing national programmes of action;

4. Also encourages the UNICEF secretariat, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations agencies, and with national partners and external providers of assistance, and in selecting strategic areas of assistance in country programmes, to continue:

(a) To focus on universal access to basic education for children - increasing the retention and completion rates and of enrolments through a combination of formal and, as necessary, non-formal approaches and expansion of opportunities for women to gain access to basic education;

(b) To support the improvement of quality in basic education in order to enable learners to acquire a minimum required level of skills and knowledge through, inter alia, such necessary measures as the assessment of learning achievement, learner-centred approaches, innovations in respect of teaching personnel and their training and improvement in quality and quantity of learning materials;

(c) To promote parents' knowledge and skills and community- and family-based approaches for early childhood development as well as "second chance" basic education for youth and women as supporting elements of universal primary education;

(d) To increase allocations in country programmes of both general and supplementary resources to basic education in line with medium-term plan targets and the key role of basic education in promoting sustainable progress in the well-being and development of children;

5. Urges the UNICEF secretariat to put a greater emphasis in its programmes on:

(a) Targeting the major systemic problems in basic education such as inequality between girls and boys, efficiency, quality, relevance, costs and financing and management, and countries and regions with the greater need and challenge in basic education, such as the nine high-population countries, Afri and least developed countries, focusing on appropriate national policies and strategies to address these problems;

(b) Building the capacity of countries to plan and implement education programmes by strengthening national and local institutions, with particular attention to supporting decentralized and area-based planning, management, development of indigenous capacity for production of books and other material for basic education, monitoring and mobilization for universal basic educatior

(c) Adopting a systemic and systematic approach to long-term education development, promoting cost-effective reforms, resource mobilization and sustainable strategies for universal opportunities with quality enhancement, including education in the field of human rights;

(d) Providing education services for children in emergencies, in collaboration with other organizations, with the aim of restoring as much normalcy as possible in children's lives, and expanding education opportunitie for children in other difficult situations, including working children and children with disabilities, recognizing that education programmes must be responsive to different circumstances and characteristics of children;

6. Requests the Executive Director to assess and adopt measures to reorient and strengthen UNICEF capacity to play its role effectively in assisting developing countries to reach the goals of Education for All.

Annual sess
26 May 19

1995/22. UNICEF strategies in water and environmental sanitation

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report on UNICEF strategies in water supply and environmental sanitation (E/ICEF/1995/17);

2. Recognizes that universal access to clean drinking water is a fundamental human need which is essential to attain the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health;

3. Endorses the framework for the water supply and environmental sanitation programme, including the scope, objectives, areas of action, guidin principles and programme strategies as set forth in document E/ICEF/1995/17 an as clarified in the secretariat's statement which will be reflected in the fin report of the meeting;

4. Encourages the UNICEF secretariat to continue its support to countri in achieving the goals of universal access to water supply and environmental sanitation by implementing national programmes of action;

5. Further encourages the UNICEF secretariat, in collaboration with national partners and external support agencies, and selecting pertinent strategies within the framework of country programmes, to continue:

(a) To promote and advocate public commitment, national policy and accelerated actions for meeting the needs and rights of children and the poor in respect of water supply and environmental sanitation;

(b) To set, define and review national and local goals, working with government and appropriate partners and pursuing their achievement through effective monitoring systems;

(c) To promote and strengthen partnerships, formed and strengthened with Governments at all levels as well as with civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, external support agencies and others, ensuring cooperation and complementarity;

(d) To support the expansion of basic services, managed by the community, retaining strong commitment and providing catalytic support to the expansion of cost-effective services using appropriate technologies, while taking into account the potential for upgrading services by the communities themselves;

(e) To support emergency programmes for essential water supply and environmental sanitation needs within the framework of the United Nations system for emergency response;

(f) To allocate appropriate resources, as envisaged in the medium-term plan (E/ICEF/1994/3), from general resources and supplementary funds for water supply, sanitation and hygiene education, and to improve the capacity of national counterparts to effectively meet the challenge in the sector;

(g) To promote appropriate standardization of technologies for water supply and sanitation services to minimize the cost of installation, operations and maintenance;

6. Urges UNICEF to put a greater emphasis on, and allocate resources as required, for:

(a) Environmental sanitation, hygiene and behavioural change;

(b) Community management of the "water environment" within the context of Agenda 21 and primary environmental care (see document E/ICEF/1993/L.2);

(c) Capacity-building, adopting programme approaches that build capacity at all levels and in all segments of society, including establishment of community resource centres, to ensure sustainable sector development;

(d) Community cost-sharing of capital and recurrent costs of basic levels of service, taking into account the willingness and ability to pay, and recovery of full capital and recurrent costs of higher levels of services in order to generate additional resources to extend basic services and ensure their sustainability;

(e) Gender-balanced approaches to meeting the objective, recognizing women as key players and agents of change, and not solely as primary beneficiaries, in the context of overall efforts to empower women (see document E/ICEF/1994/L.5);

(f) Participatory approaches to meeting the objectives and promoting the role of the community, supported by other stakeholders, in planning, implementing, managing and monitoring services;

(g) Research and development on technology and social and economic issues, including transfer of technology, in order to promote cost-effectiveness, impact and sustainability;

(h) Assistance to countries to standardize the definition of coverage and improve monitoring systems by including process and impact indicators;

(i) Enhanced linkages with health, education, nutrition, environment and other development programmes, exploiting synergies among all sectors that support child survival, protection and development;

(j) Improvement and strengthening of the capacity of UNICEF water supply and sanitation staff by, inter alia, increasing the proportion of women in the sector and improving staff training, including the transfer of knowledge and skills and orientation and career structure to respond effectively for meeting the goals for the sector;

(k) Appropriate support for promotion of water supply and sanitation services in deprived, low-income urban areas.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/23. Election of Executive Board representatives to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education

The Executive Board

Decides to elect the following member and alternate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education for the 1995-1996 biennium from the Latin American and Caribbean group of States: Ms. Iara Gloria Areias Pradro, as member, and Ms. Heloise Vilhena de Araujo, as alternate, both from Brazil.

Annual session
26 May 1995

1995/24. Format of future Executive Board decisions

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 1994/R.1/1 (E/ICEF/1994/13/Rev.1),

1. Requests the secretariat to consider the format of future Board decisions in order to facilitate an effective and businesslike conduct of work;

2. Further requests the secretariat to provide recommendations to the third regular session of the Board in September 1995.

Annual session
26 May 1995